



Attorney Docket No.: 6770P003

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:)

Scot Cuthbertson)

Application No.: 10/691,753)

Filed: October 22, 2003)

For: DIGITAL TELEVISION CONVERTER)

Examiner:

Art Unit: 2614

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SUBMISSION OF CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Sir:

Applicants hereby enclose a certified copy of the priority document for the above-referenced patent application. The enclosed document is a certified copy of British Application No. GB 0224705.4, filed October 24, 2002.

If there are any charges not covered by any check submitted, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: March 12, 2004

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In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

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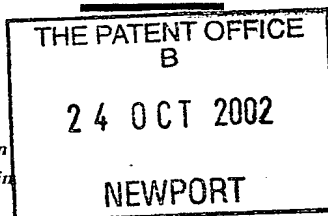


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24OCT02-E758137-2-001063
P01/7700 0.00-0224705.4



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| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Your reference | JSR.P52282GB | | |
| 2. Patent application number (The Patent Office will fill in this part) | 0224705.4 | | 24 OCT 2002 |
| 3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames) | Zarlink Semiconductor Limited Cheney Manor Swindon Wiltshire SN2 2QW Patents ADP number (if you know it) 8177974001 Britain If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation | | |
| 4. Title of the invention | Digital Television Converter | | |
| 5. Name of your agent (if you have one) | Marks & Clerk | | |
| "Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode) | 4220 Nash Court Oxford Business Park South Oxford OX4 2RU United Kingdom Patents ADP number (if you know it) 7271125001 | | |
| 6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number | Country | Priority application number (if you know it) | Date of filing (day / month / year) |
| 7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application | Number of earlier application | Date of filing (day / month / year) | |
| 8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if: a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or c) any named applicant is a corporate body. See note (d)) | Yes | | |

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Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77) 1

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77) 1

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature 

Date

Marks & Clerk

23 October 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom John S. Robinson - 01865 397900

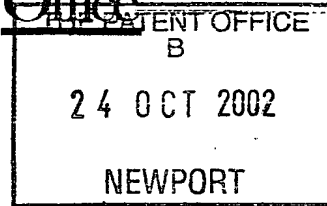
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Statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent

| | | | |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Your reference | JSR.P52282GB | | |
| 2. Patent application number (if you know it) | 0224705.4 | | |
| 3. Full name of the or of each applicant | Zarlink Semiconductor Limited | | |
| 4. Title of the invention | Digital Television Converter | | |
| 5. State how the applicant(s) derived the right from the inventor(s) to be granted a patent | By virtue of employment. | | |
| 6. How many, if any, additional Patents Forms 7/77 are attached to this form? (see note (c)) | None | | |
| 7. | <p>I/We believe that the person(s) named over the page (and on any extra copies of this form) is/are the inventor(s) of the invention which the above patent application relates to.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Signature Marks & Clerk </td> <td style="text-align: center;">Date 23 October 2002</td> </tr> </table> | Signature Marks & Clerk  | Date 23 October 2002 |
| Signature Marks & Clerk  | Date 23 October 2002 | | |
| 8. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom | John S. Robinson - 01865 397900 | | |

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DIGITAL TELEVISION CONVERTER

The present invention relates to a digital television converter for a television apparatus which is incapable of reception of digital television broadcasts. A particular application of such a converter is for receiving digital terrestrial or satellite television signals and supplying demodulated signals in a form suitable for a television apparatus, such as a television receiver (including a display screen and audio facilities) or a video cassette recorder (VCR), which does not have the ability to tune and/or demodulate the digital telephone signals.

Domestic "set top boxes" are presently used for receiving digital terrestrial broadcasts and are provided in an enclosure which is required to fulfil a number of functions. The enclosure is required to house all of the internal components, to provide sufficient cooling of such components, and to comply with electromagnetic compatibility and electrical safety requirements. Generally, a front panel area is required for various displays and controls and a rear panel area is required to provide connections to other equipment and an aerial by means of the appropriate cables.

In a typical set top box (STB), the enclosure contains a main printed circuit board (PCB) onto which most of the electronic components are mounted. An internal power supply is generally provided, although an external power supply unit may be used and it is even possible to use a combination of internal and external power supply arrangements. It is also common for front panel components to be mounted on a front panel PCB connected to the main PCB.

The form factor of such an arrangement is generally determined by the size of the main PCB. Such STBs typically have a form factor of a consumer home entertainment product, such as a domestic sound system, a digital versatile disc (DVD) player or a VCR. The mechanical constraints on an apparatus of this type require that it be self-supporting with cables providing connections, for example, to a television receiver and a VCR. Thus, in a domestic environment, space must be found to accommodate an STB and the type of enclosure or housing makes a substantial contribution to the cost.

According to the invention, there is provided a digital television converter for a television apparatus which is incapable of reception of digital television broadcasts, the converter comprising a connector for mating with a mating connector on the television apparatus so as to make electrical contact therewith and to be supported thereby, a tuner for selecting and demodulating a digital television channel and for supplying to the connector signals in a form suitable for use by the apparatus, and a connector rear housing which cooperates with the connector to form an enclosure containing and mechanically supporting the tuner.

The connector may be a SCART connector.

The converter may comprise an aerial input connector fixed to the housing and electrically connected to an input of the tuner.

The tuner may be mounted on a printed circuit board which is electrically connected to the connector and which is mechanically connected to the connector so as to be supported thereby. The connector may comprise a plurality of terminals with rear portions connected to the circuit board. The circuit board may extend below the rear portions. The rear portions may extend rearwardly and then downwardly so as to connect to the circuit board. The connector may comprise a body to which the circuit board is mechanically fixed. The converter may comprise a further connector mounted on the enclosure for mating with a further mating cable-end connector. The converter may comprise a changeover switching arrangement for selectively connecting the connector to the tuner or the further connector.

The tuner may include a controller for controlling the converter in response to remote control signals. The converter may comprise a remote control signal input connector mounted on the enclosure.

The converter may comprise a power supply input connector mounted on the enclosure for connection to a remote power supply.

It is thus possible to provide a very compact arrangement which may, for example, be used to perform all of the functions of a conventional set top box in a very compact arrangement requiring minimal space. Advantage can be taken of the scale of integration such that a whole tuner may be accommodated within the body of a connector arrangement, for example, of the SCART type (also known as a peritale connector). A relatively inexpensive and very compact housing can be used and advantage can be taken of remote control systems for controlling the converter such that no large enclosure is required. An arrangement of this type may be manufactured with substantially reduced cost and can be incorporated, for example, into any existing domestic television system without requiring any substantial space or rearrangement of existing components.

The invention will be further described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which;

Figure 1 is a diagram illustrating several views of a converter constituting a first embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a diagram illustrating the internal physical arrangement of a converter constituting another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 3 is a block schematic diagram illustrating the circuit arrangement of a converter constituting an embodiment of the invention.

The converter shown in Figure 1 is intended for receiving digital terrestrial or satellite broadcast television signals and is embodied in the form of a "SCART adaptor" 1. The converter 1 comprises all of the connectors required for operation of the converter together with all of the components required to select any desired channel from a broadband multi-channel input signal and convert this into signals which are suitable for use by an associated apparatus such as a television receiver or a VCR.

The converter comprises a SCART connector 2 and a rear housing 3 which cooperates with the connector 2 to form an enclosure on which other connectors are mounted and which contains all of the converter electronics other than an external power supply unit. The connector 2 is in the form of a male connector substantially occupying an end surface of the enclosure and having terminals for transferring decoded audio, video and signalling information to and from a mating connector forming part of a television apparatus, such as a television receiver or VCR. Mating of the connector 2 with the mating connector of the associated apparatus serves not only for providing electrical connections between the converter and the apparatus but also for physically (mechanically) mounting and supporting the converter 1, which therefore does not require any other means of support. The thickness of the housing 3 is comparable with that of the SCART connector 2 so that the converter can be plugged into the mating SCART connector on the television apparatus without fouling any other connections which may be present adjacent the connector on the apparatus.

Figure 1 comprises a front view A, a side view B, a plan view C and a rear view D of the converter. The rear of the housing accommodates various further connectors required for operation of the converter or for convenience. An antennae input connector in the form of a coaxial socket 4 is provided to allow broadcast television signals to be supplied to the input of the converter. The connector 4 is also connected to an antennae output connector 5 in the form of a coaxial plug to allow the antennae signal to be available for use by other apparatuses. A power supply input connector 6 is provided to permit the use of an external power supply unit and thus reduce the space requirements of the converter 1. However, in alternative arrangements, part or all of the power supply unit may be provided inside the housing 3. An infrared receiver is illustrated at 7 for receiving remote control signals from a remote infrared controller (not shown), which may be of the conventional or known type.

Figure 2 illustrates the physical arrangement of a converter of a type similar to that shown in Figure 1 but with the rear housing removed. The connector 2 is mechanically attached to a printed circuit board (PCB) 10, for example by being bolted thereto. The connector 2 therefore exclusively provides mechanical support for the PCB 10, which in

turn supports all of the other components of the converter (except the rear housing). The PCB 10 is electrically connected to the terminals of the connector 2 and extends below the rear portions of these terminals so as to allow the area of the PCB to be utilised as fully as possible while reducing the length of the converter from the connector 2 to the rear of the PCB. The rear portions of the connector terminals, for example as shown at 11, initially extend rearwardly of the connector 2 and are then turned through 90° so as to extend downwardly to the upper surface of the PCB 10, through holes in the PCB 10 to the lower surface, or both for electrical connection to circuit tracks of the PCB.

The PCB 10 supports and provides electrical interconnection for all of the components of the converter. Thus, the PCB 10 supports active devices such as integrated circuits, passive devices such as resistors and capacitors, and modules such as that illustrated at 12 and comprising, for example, the radio frequency, intermediate frequency and demodulator sub-systems of a tuner. The PCB 10 also supports and provides electrical connection to the connectors 4 to 7.

Figure 3 illustrates schematically the electrical layout of the converter 1. The converter 1 is shown as having a SCART "loop through" facility to allow a tuner 24 to be disconnected from the connector 2 and the connector 2 to be connected to another SCART connector 20. Thus, when the functions of the converter are not required, such an arrangement allows the SCART port on, for example, a television receiver 21 to be used for another purpose, such as for connection to a VCR 22, without requiring re-plugging. In particular, a switching arrangement 23 is provided to allow the terminals of the connector 2 to be switched either to the tuner 24 of the converter 1 or to the corresponding terminals of the connector 20, in which case the tuner 24 is fully isolated from the through-connection between the connectors 2 and 20. The switching arrangement 23 is of the changeover type and may be operated mechanically by a user or, more conveniently, electrically under remote control or as a consequence of whether the converter 1 is in use or not in use.

The tuner is controlled by a controller 25 in accordance with remote control signals from a suitable remote control handset. The tuner 24 has an aerial input and output connected to the connectors 4 and 5, for example for receiving digital terrestrial or satellite television signals from a terrestrial aerial 26 or from a satellite dish and low noise block (LNB). When activated, the tuner selects a desired television channel for reception and converts this to audio and video signals which are supplied to the connector 2 and which are of a form suitable for use by the television receiver 21. For example, the video signals may be in the form of analogue RGB component signals and/or composite video and the audio signals may be in the form of stereo analogue signals. The television receiver 21 is illustrated as being of the type comprising a display 27 connected to a SCART connector 28 for processing and displaying the video signals from the tuner 1. The receiver 21 also comprises an audio processing circuit 29 for receiving the audio signals from the connector 28 and for supplying these to loudspeakers 30.

The converter 1 is provided with an external power supply unit (PSU) 31 which supplies power to the tuner via the connector 6. Figure 3 also illustrates various arrangements for permitting the controller 25 to receive the remote control signals for controlling the operation of the converter. For example, if the remote control signals are supplied in the form of infrared signals from the handset, a remote infrared sensor 33 may be disposed in a position suitable for receiving the infrared signals and connected via a suitable lead to an electrical connector 7a, for example of coaxial type. As an alternative, an infrared sensor 34 may comprise or form part of a connector 7b for connection to a light guide 35, whose remote end is arranged to receive the infrared signals.

In the case of radio frequency wireless remote control signals, a connector 7c, such as a coaxial connector, may be provided for connection to a suitable aerial 36. Alternatively, an internal aerial 37 may be provided, in which case there is no need to provide a connector for remote control signals.

In the arrangement shown in Figure 3, the converter 1 is mounted by mating the SCART connector 2 to the corresponding SCART connector 28 on the receiver 21. This connection provides all of the electrical connections between the converter 1 and the receiver 21 and the mechanical mounting of and support for the converter 1. A VCR 22 is connected via a cable-end SCART connector 38 to the SCART connector 20. Other connections are provided as necessary, for example including connection of the PSU 31, the aerial 26, and any sensing arrangement for the remote control signals. The converter 1 may therefore be incorporated into a home entertainment system without requiring any support while occupying minimal space.

CLAIMS:

1. A digital television converter for a television apparatus which is incapable of reception of digital television broadcasts, the converter comprising a connector for mating with a mating connector on the television apparatus so as to make electrical contact therewith and be supported thereby, a tuner for selecting and demodulating a digital television channel and for supplying to the connector signals in a form suitable for use by the apparatus, and a connector rear housing which cooperates with the connector to form an enclosure containing and mechanically supporting the tuner.
2. A converter as claimed in claim 1, in which the connector is a SCART connector.
3. A converter as claimed in claim 1 or 2, comprising an aerial input connector fixed to the housing and electrically connected to an input of the tuner.
4. A converter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the tuner is mounted on a printed circuit board which is electrically connected to the connector and which is mechanically connected to the connector so as to be supported thereby.
5. A converter as claimed in claim 4, in which the connector comprises a plurality of terminals with rear portions connected to the circuit board.
6. A converter as claimed in claim 5, in which the circuit board extends below the rear portions.
7. A converter as claimed in claim 5 or 6, in which the rear portions extend rearwardly and then downwardly so as to connect to the circuit board.
8. A converter as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 7, in which the connector comprises a body to which the circuit board is mechanically fixed.

9. A converter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, comprising a further connector mounted on the enclosure for mating with a further mating cable-end connector.
10. A converter as claimed in claim 9, comprising a changeover switching arrangement for selectively connecting the connector to the tuner or the further connector.
11. A converter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the tuner includes a controller for controlling the converter in response to remote control signals.
12. A converter as claimed in claim 11, comprising a remote control signal input connector mounted on the enclosure.
13. A converter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, comprising a power supply input connector mounted on the enclosure for connection to a remote power supply.

ABSTRACT
DIGITAL TELEVISION CONVERTER

A digital television converter is provided, for example for performing all of the functions of a set top box for receiving digital terrestrial or satellite television broadcast signals. The converter comprises a SCART connector 2 for mating with a mating connector on a television apparatus, such as a television receiver or a VCR, which is incapable of reception of digital television broadcasts. This connection provides electrical contact with the apparatus and provides mechanical support for the converter. The converter also comprises a tuner 12 which selects and demodulates a television channel for reception and supplies to the connector 2 signals in a form suitable for use by the television apparatus. A connector rear housing completes the enclosure for the converter containing the tuner 12.

(Figure 2)

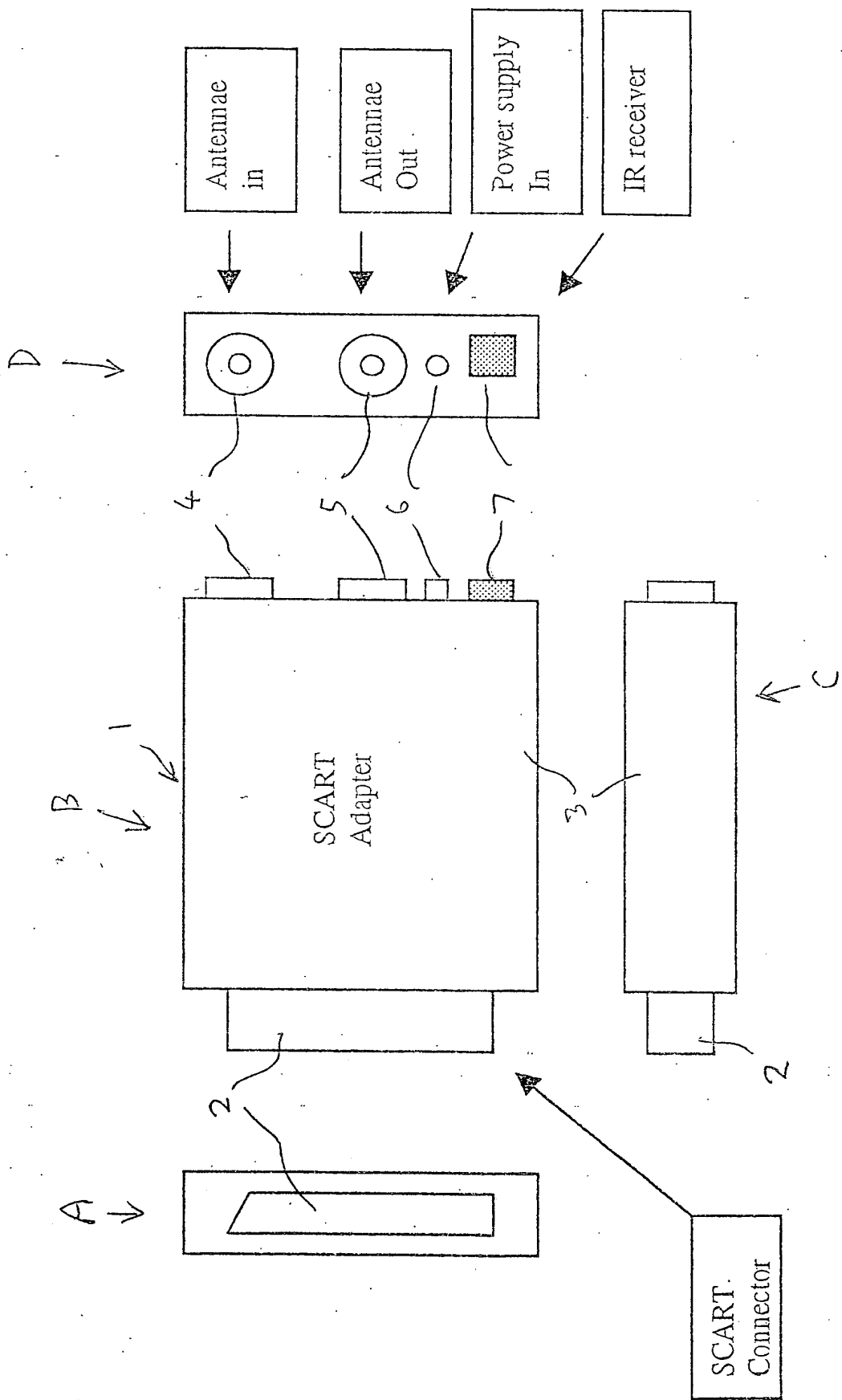
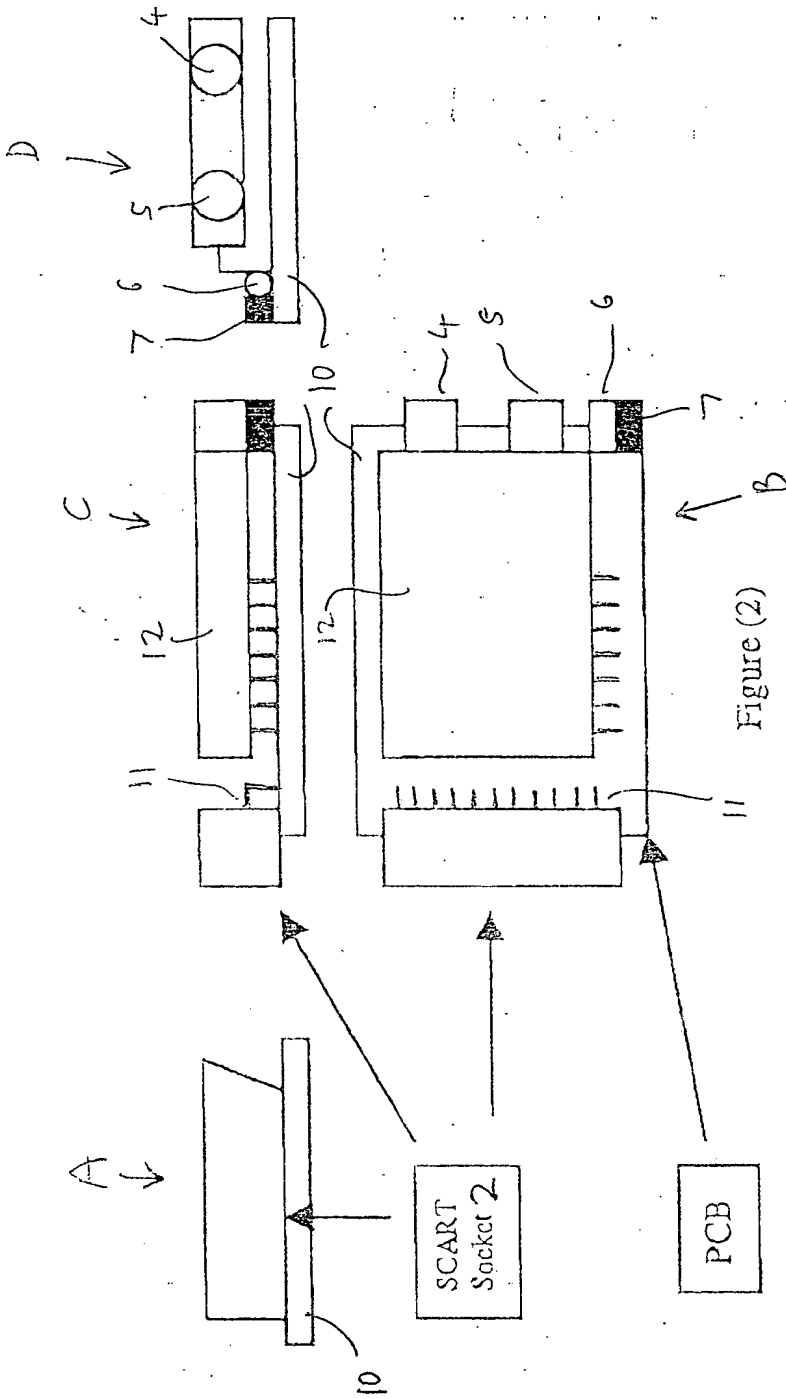


Figure (1)







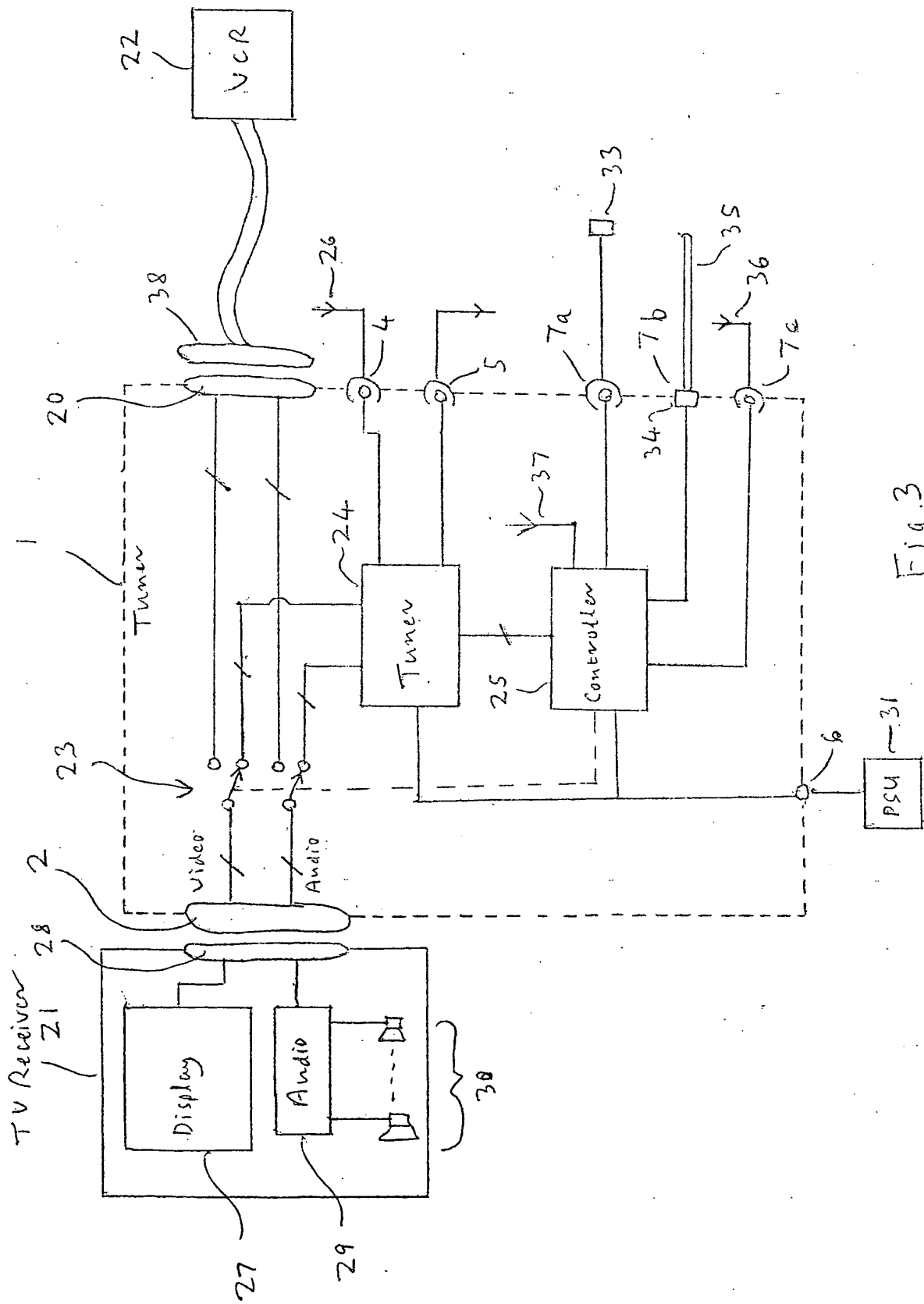


Fig. 3

